

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Annual Membership Meeting**

This year's membership meeting will be held in September at John Tyler Community College. The exact date and time will be announced in the next few weeks via email and [MEGA's website](#). The meeting is an all-hands for MEGA volunteers to meet, greet and get an update on the organization's programs, accomplishments, committee activities, etc.

## **PAST EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Annual Excellence Awards & Recognition Celebration**

Over 250 guests attended the May 26 event themed "Time, Talent and Tomorrow." The inspirational speaker was the Honorable Cressondra Brown Conyers, a Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court judge for Gloucester, Mathews and Middlesex counties. Judge Conyers is an advocate for children and is passionate about the importance of education. She shared her testimony of perseverance through the use of her time, talents and how they shaped her past, present and future.

This year's honorees were:

Students of the Year for Carver College and Career Academy: 9th Grade: Jalen King; 10th Grade: Gabriel Tompkins and Ce'Tia Thomas; 11th Grade: T'Asia Jordan; 12th Grade: Keith Heiskell and Kyah Chambers

Students of the Year for Carver MS: 6th Grade: Jourden McDaniel and Zynasia Fitzgerald; 7th Grade: Oscar Ambrose and Jordan Reynolds; 8th Grade: Austin Pearson and Alexis Reed

Students of the Year for CTC @Hull: Kevin Recinos and Kimberly Willis

Students of the Year for Falling Creek MS: 6th Grade: Sabastian Lindsey and Rdaysia Thomas; 7th Grade: Isaac Lee and Shawnay James; 8th Grade: Travis Williams and Jahnaria Baskerville;

Students of the Year for Meadowbrook HS: 9th and 10th Grade: Kirt Studeviant and Diamond Coleman; 11th and 12th Grade: Jayondrey Giles and Jay la Lewis

Students of the Year for Providence MS: 6th Grade: Jackson Taylor and Sara Gaverick; 7th Grade: Kaleb Bingham and Lyric Marks; 8th Grade: Dominic Gray and Jantoria Winston

School Coordinator of the Year: Monique Booth

Female Mentor of the Year: Brenda White

Male Mentor of the Year: LJ McCoy

Community Partner of the Year: Spring Creek Baptist Church

MEGA School of the Year: Providence MS

### **Field Trip to Richmond Flying Squirrels Game**

Although the Richmond Flying Squirrels game on May 5 was cancelled, MEGA students had the opportunity to learn about management from the Squirrels' management team. In addition to learning what happens behind the scenes for a game production, the students also met with the general manager and chief

operating officer who presented their business perspectives. From their comments and enthusiasm, it was evident the students learned a lot and had fun. During a subsequent MEGA session, students from Carver discussed what they saw and experienced and stated they were extremely impressed with the Squirrels organization. Most notably, the students mentioned the incredible teamwork the staff exhibited and were impressed with how integrated the work was — that others were willing to pitch in and help someone else do his/her job if needed. The Squirrels staff members also enjoyed interacting with the students and discussed creating a "Walk a Mile in My Shoes" program for next season.

## **MENTORING HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **Carver College and Academy**

Kazohn Mason was accepted to and will attend Virginia State University this fall. Keith Heiskell, Kearra Johnson and Kyah Chambers were accepted to and will attend Richard Bland Community College. Junior Gary Tompkins will be traveling to the University of St. Thomas this summer to do scientific research. Kazohn was also named Carver's male student of the year.

One of our greatest satisfactions as mentors is hearing from former students and learning about their accomplishments since leaving MEGA's program. It's especially rewarding when they want to give back and become mentors themselves. Here is a testimonial we received this month from a Carver alumna:

*Hello, my name is Vernisha Benson and I am a Chesterfield Community High School graduate (2015). I was in MEGA Mentors for the last two years of school, and I went to every meeting and field trip available. I was the 2015 MEGA Mentors Student of the Year. I was so honored to be chosen! I am now in college and on the road to success for which this program has prepared me for. MEGA has helped me in many ways and coming from a rough educational background, the program has helped me grow. I now would like to help other students grow and become successful. I would love to share my story of how I went from a major downfall to becoming successful."*

## **BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES**

### **New Board Members**

MEGA welcomed the following new Board members in July: Phil Daniel, La Shanda Hill, and Kevin Nicholson; and Beth Teigen as a Board advisor.

### **Committee Assignment**

MEGA is currently seeking new members for the following committees: Program; Plans & Processes; Communication & Events; Fundraising; and Recruiting, Membership and Training. If you are interested in joining one or more of these committees, contact Howard Corey at [MEGAMentors14@gmail.com](mailto:MEGAMentors14@gmail.com). Please put "Committee Assignment" in the subject line and include your name, contact information and which committee(s) you'd be interested in joining.

### **Recruiting, Membership and Training Committee**

MEGA needs your help to improve its program in the community! Please take a few minutes to complete the 2015-2016 school year MEGA Membership Survey by **August 1**. [Click here to take the survey.](#)

### **Plans & Processes Committee**

MEGA is taking major steps toward organizational sustainability. Nearly all of our events and activities require a tremendous amount of planning and work. To help our volunteers run each event and activity as smoothly as possible, we are working on documenting all the processes using Trello, an online platform that allows us to create checklists and appropriate documents for each activity. We began with breaking down the process for the Annual Awards and Recognition Celebration, and the documents are available to all appropriate team members for them to monitor the status of all of the tasks. The leadership team will reach out to MEGA volunteers in the near future to capture the processes for other event and activities.

We are seeking detail-oriented team members with note-taking and basic listening and interviewing skills to help document MEGA's organizational plans and processes. If you are interested in joining this committee, please see "Committee Assignment" right above this section for instructions.

### **Communication & Events Committee**

The C&E Committee is seeking volunteers with any of the following skills: social media management, writing/editing, website content management, design/layout, and computer skills.

MEGA welcomes and values your feedback in making our website and social media pages more relevant, useful and user-friendly. Please email us at [MEGAMentors14@gmail.com](mailto:MEGAMentors14@gmail.com) with the subject line "Website (or Social Media) suggestion" with your ideas and/or concerns.

Website: [www.MEGAMentors.org](http://www.MEGAMentors.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Megamentors.org](http://www.facebook.com/Megamentors.org)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/MegaMentors](http://www.twitter.com/MegaMentors)

Instagram: <https://instagram.com/megamentors>

## **HOW TO SUPPORT MEGA MENTORS**

Please visit our [website](#) for information on various ways to support our mission. A detailed list of contribution options is also located on the MEGA Mentors Fact Sheet, which is located midway down the home page.

[Click here to access the MEGA Mentors Newsletter archive.](#)